

of March 19, 2003, American stealth bombers and Navy cruise missiles hit Baghdad in the first strikes of the Iraq war.

When I think about that war today, I think about the costs—the costs to the Iraqi people, who suffered so terribly, including the families of the hundreds of thousands killed in the insurgency, and the sectarian and ethnic violence that followed the U.S. invasion.

I think of the costs to the brave American servicemembers who answered the call, who didn't ask whether it was right or wrong but just answered the call—almost 5,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice—and to the tens of thousands more who were wounded; to the countless sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, friends and loved ones who had to grieve those they lost and care for those who came home wounded, with scars both visible and invisible, changed by combat forever.

I think about the financial costs—almost \$2 trillion that could have gone to rebuilding America's infrastructure, caring for America's sick and aging, and educating our next generation.

I also think about the costs of something very close to my heart, which is the cause of freedom and the fight for democratic values.

Our Nation's democracy, as Ronald Reagan said, was a shining city on a hill, an example to the world of something to aspire to; but the Iraq war undermined our credibility with our partners and allies, with our enemies, and with millions of American citizens who were against it. For too many around the world, the Iraq war made a mockery of U.S. support for democracy and freedom.

Today, I proudly remember my vote on the floor of the House of Representatives back in 2002. Life in America was tense in the wake of 9/11. Everything we stood for had been attacked on our own soil—just miles from where I still live. Those of us who resisted the march to war were called naive or worse, but some of us knew what we had to do. We felt the weight of history on our shoulders, and we voted against the war.

I spent a lot of time in reviewing the documents that were available to Members of the House. I saw no clear and present danger, no imminent threat, and, above all, no evidence of weapons of mass destruction. And I understand. If the cause is right and America needs it, I will send my son and daughter; but if the cause is not right, I won't send my son and daughter nor will I vote to send anyone else's sons and daughters into harm's way.

Two decades later, we have the chance to make history again but, this time, for the better. We have the chance to repeal the 1991 and 2002 AUMFs and honor the legacy of those who fought and those we lost—to end a war we are no longer waging; to exercise Congress's war powers—the most solemn duty of this body—because Saddam Hussein has been dead for 20 years

and his regime is gone; because the Iraq of 2023 is, obviously, not the Iraq of 2003; because Kuwait has been a secure, sovereign, and committed U.S. partner for over three decades; and because the threats that these authorizations address no longer exist.

The United States is no longer an occupying force. Iraq is now a strategic partner. It is time to confront the challenges of the region and of the world together. Repealing these authorizations is an important step forward. It removes an irritant in the bilateral relationship, and it cements our partnership. It helps Iraq move forward, independent and more integrated with its Arab neighbors.

So, Mr. President, I come to the floor today to support, in the strongest terms possible, the repeal of the 1991 and 2002 authorizations for use of military force against Iraq once and for all.

Let's mark the 20th anniversary this week of the Iraq war by paying tribute to the Iraqis who have suffered, to the Americans we lost, and to the American families who have provided unconditional support for those who have served every day for the last 20 years.

We will never forget the sacrifices they made in defense of the values we hold most dear. Let's honor those values by doing what Congress is supposed to do. When there is a need, it declares war, and when that is over, it is time to end the declaration and the authorization. That is what we have the power to do today.

With that, I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Leg.]

#### YEAS—67

Baldwin	Collins	Hirono
Bennet	Coons	Hoeben
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Johnson
Booker	Cramer	Kaine
Braun	Daines	Kelly
Brown	Duckworth	King
Budd	Gillibrand	Klobuchar
Cantwell	Grassley	Lee
Cardin	Hassan	Lujan
Carper	Hawley	Lummis
Casey	Heinrich	Manchin
Cassidy	Hickenlooper	Markey

Marshall  
Menendez  
Merkley  
Moran  
Murkowski  
Murphy  
Murray  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Paul  
Peters

Reed  
Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schmitt  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Sinema  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Tester

Van Hollen  
Vance  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden  
Young

#### NAYS—28

Blackburn  
Boozman  
Britt  
Capito  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Ernst  
Fischer

Graham  
Hagerty  
Hyde-Smith  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Mullin  
Ricketts  
Risch  
Romney  
Rounds

Rubio  
Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Tuberville  
Wicker

#### NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso  
Durbin

Feinstein  
Fetterman

McConnell

The motion was agreed to.  
(Mr. WARNOCK assumed the Chair.)

### REPEALING THE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 316) to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 15

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 15.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

#### SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### BIENNIAL REPORT ON AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT PUBLIC SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS INSPECTIONS—116TH CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Biennial